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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 1998

Agenda and programme of work for 1998

The agenda for the substantive session of 1998 of the Committee on Conferences was approved by the Committee at its organizational session, on 14 April 1998, on the basis of a draft agenda proposed by the Secretariat in document A/AC.172/1998/L.1. The approved agenda for the substantive session of 1998 is accordingly issued in the present document, together with annotations regarding the documentation for the Committee's consideration in 1998.

Agenda for the substantive session of 1998

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Calendar of conferences and meetings:
   - (a) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1999;
   - (b) Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources:
     - (i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs;
     - (ii) Consultations with bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them;
     - (iii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;
     - (iv) Cost accounting;
     - (v) Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;
     - (vi) Improved coordination of conference services;
   - (c) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243.
3. Control and limitation of documentation:
   - (a) Review of the late issuance of documentation;

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(b) Provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly;

(c) Compliance with the regulations concerning page limits;

(d) Translation-related matters;

(e) Linguistic monitoring of document production.

4. Review of the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997: section 26E, Conference services.

5. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

2. Calendar of conferences and meetings:

(a) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1999

A draft revised calendar for 1999 will be submitted by the Secretariat to the Committee.

(b) Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources:

(i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs

This sub-item will be taken up on the basis of a written report containing statistics on a core sample of bodies.

(ii) Consultations with bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them

An oral report will be presented on the consultations held between the Chairman of the Committee and the chairmen of bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure (80 per cent) of their allocated resources for the past three sessions.

(iii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

The Secretariat will present an oral report on the matter.

(iv) Cost accounting

The Secretariat will submit a written report on the cost-accounting system. In addition, it will submit a conference room paper on the notional costs of conference services at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

(v) Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

The Secretariat will present an oral report on improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

(vi) Improved coordination of conference services

The Secretariat will present an oral report on the active dialogue between conference services and the substantive secretariats of intergovernmental bodies at the United Nations headquarters and between the Secretariat and Member States at the United Nations headquarters, with a view to improving the coordination of conference services.

(c) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

In accordance with established procedure, chairmen of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly that wish to meet at Headquarters during the main part of the fifty-third session of the Assembly should submit their requests to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences. Requests so received will be submitted to the Committee in a conference room paper, which will be issued as close as possible to the opening of the session so as to ensure the inclusion of the fullest information possible.

3. Control and limitation of documentation:

(a) Review of the late issuance of documentation

The Secretariat will submit a conference room paper on the matter.

(b) Provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly

The Secretariat will provide an oral report on the experience of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the use of unedited transcripts, and on the replies received from the chairmen of intergovernmental bodies concerning such transcripts.

(c) Compliance with the regulations concerning page limits

The Secretariat will submit a conference room paper on the matter.

(d) Translation-related matters

The Secretariat will submit a conference room paper on the translation-related matters referred to in section B, paragraphs 10 to 19, of General Assembly resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997 and a report of the Secretary-General on the translation-related matters referred to in part III, paragraphs 13 to 15, of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997.

(e) Linguistic monitoring of document production

The Secretariat will present an oral report on the matter.

4. Review of the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997: section 26E, Conference services

The Committee will consider the programme performance report for the biennium 1996-1997 for conference services.

5. Adoption of the report